(iv) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana: (SGSY) scheme is a major poverty linked credit programme for the needs of the Below Poverty Line (BPL) borrower and aims at establishing a large number of micro enterprises in the rural areas of the country. The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaries) above the poverty line by ensuring sustained level of income over a period of time. This objective is to be achieved by *inter-alia,* organizing rural poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through the process of social mobilization, training, capacity building and provision of income generating assets.

(v) Eligibility: Rural poor such as the landless labour, small and marginal farmers, those with marginal land, rural artisans and educated unemployed enlisted in the BPL list up to an age limit of 60 years.

(vi) Reservation: 50% for SC/ST, 40% for women and 3% for handicapped, 50% of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Under the scheme, generally a Self Help Group consists of 10—20 persons. However, a relaxation in these criteria has been allowed by RBI that in difficult areas like deserts, hills and areas with scattered and sparse population the number of persons in the group may vary from 5—20. Generally all members of the group should belong to families below the poverty line (BPL). Further, relaxation provided that, if necessary, a maximum of 20% and in exceptional cases, where essentially required, upto a maximum of 30% of the members in a group may be taken from families marginally above the poverty line living continuously with BPL families and if they are acceptable to the BPL members of the group.

Financial aid to Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh

† 4118. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial aid provided by Government to Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh respectively during last year;

(b) whether Government have made an assessment from different points of view while providing financial aid to both States whereas geographic situation of both is same being hilly States; and

(c) whether Government will provide financial aid to Uttaranchal equal to that of Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VTTHOBA ADSUL): (a) Financial aid is provided to States as Non-Plan Grants on the basis of recommendations of the Finance Commission and as Central Assistance under the Scheme of financing

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of States' Annual Plan and through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Schemes. In 2002-03, Central Assistance of Rs. 1604.81 crores was provided to Uttaranchal. For the same period, Rs. 1295.27 crores was provided to Himachal Pradesh. Under Non-Plan Grants a total amount of Rs. 32.54 crores and Rs. 817.85 crores was provided to Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh respectively. Besides, share in Central Taxes amounting to Rs. 374.11 crores, was released to Uttaranchal and Rs. 347.63 crores, was released to Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter of provided financial aid to Uttaranchal will be decided at the time of finalization of Annual Plans'of States by Planning Commission in consultation with States Governments. Annual Plan of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh for 2003-04 are yet to be finalized.

Funding mechanism for infrastructure projects

4119. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to implement the innovative funding mechanism for the major infrastructure projects in the Ministries of Surface Transport, Railways, Civil Aviation etc/,

(b) how the scheme is going to be operationalised;

(c) whether the budget allocation is sufficient to bridge the viability gap; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Government has already allocated Rs. 2000 crore in the Union Budget 2003-04 for this purpose. Process has already been initiated to promote public private partnership for the infrastructure projects. As this is an ongoing process, no specific time limit may be provided.

(a) The concerned Administrative Ministry would take the due approval of the competent authority for the investment proposal and meeting the viability gap-

(b) Sufficiency or otherwise of the allocation would be known once the detailed project reports are finalized, indicating funding sources, phasing of investment and resource requirement to fill the gap.

(c) Details would only be available after finalization of the various projects and their approval by appropriate authority.